

4. National Security Strategy- Internal Security

The US has released the National Security Strategy (NSS) 2025, marking a decisive departure from post-Cold War American foreign policy frameworks to the "Make America Great Again (MAGA)" agenda at the heart of U.S. global strategy. The new NSS reflects a clear ideological imprint of MAGA (Make America Great Again), marking a decisive shift away from liberal internationalism toward hard-nosed nationalism, sovereignty, and transactional realism.

Re-definition of National Interest- From Global Leadership to Core Security

The NSS narrows the definition of "national interest" to issues that directly affect

1. U.S. territorial security
2. Economic prosperity
3. Border control

Explicitly criticises earlier strategies focused on

1. Global democracy promotion
2. Regime change
3. Moral leadership and "global domination" ambitions

Reflects MAGA's belief that U.S. overstretch weakens domestic strength. Signals a retreat from rules-based global leadership toward selective engagement.

Strategic Implication

The U.S. is no longer the default guarantor of global order but a self-interested great power. Western Hemisphere First- Revival of Monroe Doctrine Logic. The NSS elevates the Western Hemisphere as the top strategic priority, above Europe or the Indo-Pacific. Announces a modern "Trump Corollary" to the Monroe Doctrine.

Core objectives

1. Re-assert U.S. primacy in Latin America
2. Push back Chinese, Russian, and Iranian influence
3. Prevent strategic infrastructure, ports, and digital penetration by rivals

Reflects MAGA's worldview that near-abroad security precedes distant alliances.

Contrast with Earlier NSS- Earlier strategies globalised U.S. commitments; MAGA re-territorialises them.

Sovereignty Above Multilateralism- The NSS asserts the nation-state as the fundamental unit of world politics. Strong scepticism toward

1. International institutions
2. Global governance frameworks
3. "Transnational elites" and norms

Encourages all countries to put their national interest first, rejecting universalist moral obligations.

Reinforces- Opposition to supranational legal constraints. Reduced deference to UN-led or treaty-based mechanisms

Ideological Root

MAGA views multilateralism as a constraint on U.S. freedom of action.

High Threshold for Military Intervention- Anti-"Forever Wars"- NSS criticises prolonged overseas military engagements in

1. Afghanistan
2. Iraq
3. Syria

Sets a high bar for intervention, requiring- Clear, direct U.S. interest, Exit strategy, Limited scope

Simultaneously insists - Overwhelming military superiority, Forward deterrence, "Peace through strength"

Doctrinal Paradox- Reluctance to fight wars, but readiness to threaten decisive force.

Economic Nationalism as National Security – NSS redefines economic policy as a core security instrument.

Central pillars

1. Re-industrialisation and reshoring
2. Tariffs and trade correction
3. Supply-chain decoupling
4. Strategic protectionism

“Energy dominance” elevated as

1. A geopolitical tool
2. A defence against foreign leverage

Explicit rejection of– Net-Zero commitments, Climate-centric security narratives

MAGA Linkage– Economic self-sufficiency equals strategic autonomy.

Migration and Borders as External Security Threats– Declares that “the era of mass migration is over.”

Treats border security as

1. The first line of national defence
2. A foreign policy concern, not just domestic governance

Links

1. Migration
2. Drug trafficking
3. Organised crime
4. Terrorism

Pushes responsibility onto– Origin and transit countries, regional enforcement mechanisms

Strategic Shift– Humanitarian framing of migration is replaced by securitisation.

Sharpened China Focus– Strategic Rivalry without Illusions– The NSS clearly identifies China as the primary long-term strategic challenge.

Represents a convergence between

1. MAGA nationalism
2. Bipartisan U.S. China scepticism

Emphasis on

1. Military deterrence in the Indo-Pacific
2. Technology and supply-chain decoupling
3. Countering Chinese influence in the Americas

Less emphasis on

1. Engagement or integration
2. Global governance cooperation

Key Difference from Biden-era NSS– Competition is framed less as “systemic rivalry” and more as zero-sum power politics.

Overall Strategic Character of the MAGA-Influenced NSS

Ideological Core– Nationalism, sovereignty, transactionalism

Strategic Style– Selective engagement, economic coercion, military deterrence

Global Vision– Multipolar world where the U.S. protects its interests, not the system

Risk– Erosion of alliances and norms

Strength– Clarity of priorities and domestic alignment

Source– <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/world/us/trumps-national-security-strategy-2025-released-india-crucial-era-of-mass-migration-is-over/articleshow/125795567.cms>